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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1944 No. 23

Lieutenant-General WILFRED LINDSELL

India is doing VERY WELL

The Allies had so far three main bases, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Middle East. India should be the fourth. She had not yet developed into one, but was coming on rapidly, and eventually she would have to sustain much larger forces than the British Expeditionary Forces to France ¶ India's prime need was the development of her ports to a much greater capacity than at present, in order to make possible the bringing in of the immense tonnage of stores not manufactured in the country, and the immense number of personnel required for the conduct of major operations Transport was another vital factor ¶ India is doing very well, but she can do better. She is producing clothing and general goods for the army worth about Rs. 150 crores a year, but with her labour, machinery and raw materials is it absurd to suggest that she cannot produce more ¶ The traditional orientation of India's strategy was one of defence against the possibilities of invasion from north-west. That had been altered, and India had had to re-orient her military structure to one of defence against the threat from the East, and soon she must pass to the offensive against her enemy from that quarter

Lieutenant-General WILFRED LINDSELL, Principal Administrative Officer, India Command, at a Press conference in New Delhi on Sunday (February 6)

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[NOTE.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

GRIM AND BLOODY STRUGGLE

"We have before us a grim and bloody struggle, fighting as we are against a grim and determined enemy. The Allies may get reverses but the ultimate issue will never be in doubt."

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL, A. E. NYE, *Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff, at London on Wednesday, February 9.*

◆

GERMANY WILL BE ATTACKED FROM ALL SIDES

"Hitler's weak and illiterate speech heralds the military collapse of Germany. The series of great Allied military victories in 1943 proves that the war against Germany has already been decided in favour of the Allies and that 1944 will present this decision to the world as an accomplished fact.

The Allies do not underestimate the present strength of Germany and know that the great struggle lying before them will demand many sacrifices, but any prolongation, although it will cost the Allies much, will signify for Germany, practically the extinction of her younger generation.

It is no longer a secret that the so-called Second Front and invasion of the European Continent are agreed upon by the Allies, that the preparations for it are in more than full swing, and that Germany will soon be attacked from all sides."

—DR. BENES, *President of Czechoslovakia, in a message to State Council.*

◆

WE MUST BRACE OURSELVES

"The German war machine is still formidable. Who can say that U-Boat menace will not re-appear, that we shall not again be heavily bombed, that Hitler will not use gas as the last throw of gambler's dice? We must brace ourselves to make an increasing military effort, and at the same time we must contrive, in some way, to support the additional burden entailed in preparing the structure of peace."

LORD McGOWAN, *Chairman of the Imperial Chemical Industries, at Edinburgh on Saturday, February 5.*

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MARSHALLS—A GREAT MORALE-BLOW TO JAPAN

MR. JOSEPH GREW, a former United States Ambassador to Japan, now Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of State, told the U.S. Senate Military Affairs Committee on Wednesday, "Our victory in the Pacific must be complete and irrevocable. Unless we continue our determination to destroy the Japanese military machine and caste and cult once and for all, our sons and grandsons will be fighting this war over again in the next generation."

ALLIED leaders in charge of operations in the Pacific have long been planning a far-flung campaign which will bring about the defeat of Japan and the annihilation of its military machine. The spectacular invasion of the Marshall slands, which form the outer fringe of Japan's Central Pacific island fortresses, is one of the important steps in the execution of Allied global strategy against the Axis. These apparently trifling group of islands in the vast Pacific Ocean, 9,000 miles from the Bering Sea to the Antarctic and 10,500 miles from Singapore to Panama, are of tremendous strategic value, because the Allied approach to Tokyo by way of the Pacific entirely depends upon command of the bases which have been built upon these islands. There is such a large expanse of water separating Japan from the United States and Australia that unless the Allies are in possession of the Pacific islands which are called "fixed aircraft-carriers," it will not be possible for even highly developed modern means of warfare to penetrate to Japan.

The Mandate and Japan

THESE islands which were first discovered by De Saavedra got their name from Captain Marshall who explored these islands in 1788. In 1885-86 the Marshall Islands were annexed by Germany and remained in her possession until the First World War. When peace came they were mandated to Japan as a result of an agreement with Great Britain in 1916, which was confirmed at the Peace Conference. The agreement provided that all German islands north of the Equator—the Marianas; Yap and the Pellew islands; the Caroline and the Marshall Islands—should be under Japanese protection, while those south of the Equator were to be the concern of the British Commonwealth. Japan used the mandated islands for her sinister purposes. They gave her a long salient into the Central Pacific between the United States and the Phillipines. Possession of the islands brought Japan 2,000 miles nearer to America and 2,000 miles southwards towards Australia. It was hoped that Japan would be faithful to the terms of the mandate, but she converted the mandated islands into so many strongly fortified defence positions. In 1934, Japan gave notice of withdrawal from the League of Nations. This became effective in February 1935. After this she refused to return the mandated islands, but retained them as colonies. Then came Japan's denunciation of the Five-Power Naval Treaty; she demanded naval equality with the United States and the British Empire in "global tonnage." Thereafter, she threw off all pretence and secrecy. Mysterious construction of airfields in the Pacific islands gave place to open installations of fortifications. Japan was making preparations to embark upon a great war to enlarge her empire.

Allied Troops on Japanese soil

IN the Japanese scheme of things the Marshall Islands occupy an important place. The islands consist of two chains or stretches of lagoon islands and atolls known respectively as Radak (sunrise) chain and Ralik (sunset) chain. An article published in this *Review* last month (January 28) gave an account of the atolls and how they became formidable defence positions. It may be recalled that in taking Tarawa atoll in the Gilbert Islands, which are all now in Allied hands, American Marines had to pay a heavy price. When the Allied attack on the Gilbert Islands (November 20, 1943) ended successfully, it was obvious that the next step would be the Marshall islands, for, during December and January the five important atolls of Kwajalein, Wotje, Maloelap, Jaluit and Mili were subjected to heavy air raids with a view to destroying the enemy's defence positions before the land attack was launched. It may be remembered that the first great attack against the Marshalls took place last year (February 1, 1942). It was a great naval engagement and the Allies scored a major success by destroying one 17,000-ton aircraft-carrier, 1 light cruiser, 1 destroyer, 2 submarines and 11 Auxiliary vessels. Exactly a year afterwards, American forces have landed in the Marshall Islands.

THIS is the first great morale-blow to Japan, because this is the first time that the Allies have set foot on territory that was held by her before the war. The Allies have captured Roi, a major airfield with sea plane anchorage and submarine facilities, which is 938 miles from the main Japanese naval base of Truk; Namu; Kwajalein, the world's largest atoll, which is the hub of the Marshall fortifications (the landing on which was made after the greatest and most intensified bombardment in the history of the Pacific War); Aebeye, north of the Kwajalein; and other islands. This is considered in Japanese military circles, according to the *German News Agency's* Tokyo Correspondent, as "a continuation of the decisive struggle for a break-through into Japan's inner defence zone whose main bulwark consists of the Marshalls, the Carolines (including Truk) and Mariana islands."

Towards Truk

THE importance of the occupation of the islands in the Marshalls group lies in the fact that the Allies have come nearer to Truk, Japan's main central Pacific base, the eastern approach to which was guarded by the Marshalls. Though it is true that Truk is still 1,000 miles west of Kwajalein and Tokyo is about 2,845 miles to the north-west, the fact remains that the Allies have appreciably weakened the outer defences of both Truk and Tokyo and shortened and ensured the supply lines linking the Central Pacific to Pearl Harbour. Incidentally, it has removed the threat of a possible Japanese counter-attack against the Gilbert Islands.

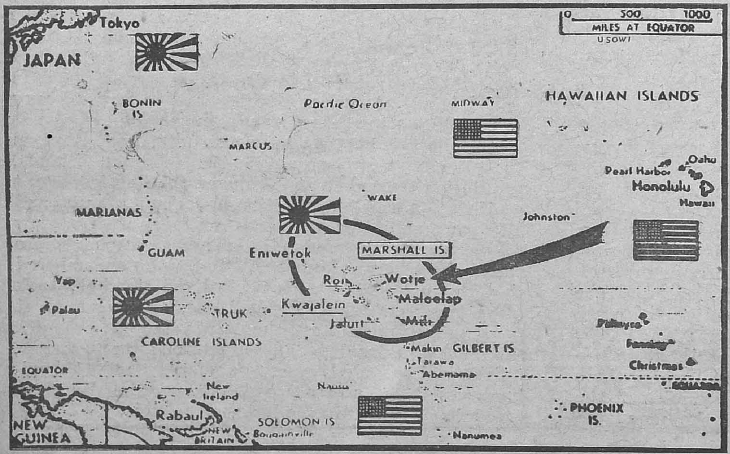
IT seems clear from the trend General MacArthur's operations are taking in the South-west Pacific that the Allies intend to take Rabaul and then go forward to Truk. It is only to be expected that the Allied double-thrust towards Truk would be slow and costly. The Japanese stand to lose far too much if they lose Truk, and stiffest opposition to Allied moves must be expected. But determined men are in charge of the job. "I have every confidence that we will put this over," said Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner in charge of the amphibious operations, "We will not come back until we have finished the job." Till they finish it Japan will be having an uneasy time.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Allied Prisoners of War—Japanese Atrocities

In a recent statement in the House of Commons (Jan. 28), Mr. ANTHONY EDEN, Britain's Foreign Secretary, made a shocking disclosure of Japanese atrocities in regard to the treatment of Allied prisoners of war. He said that thousands of prisoners from the British Commonwealth, including India, were forced by the Japanese to live under tropical jungle conditions without adequate shelter, clothing, food or medical attention. They were forced to work on building railways and making roads. Mr. EDEN said, "Our information is that their health is rapidly deteriorating, and a high percentage are seriously ill, and that there have been thousands of deaths." The number of deaths reported by the Japanese was however very modest: it was about 100. An eye-witness report of conditions in a prison camp in Siam, quoted by Mr. EDEN, stated that many prisoners were half naked and were skin and bone, unshaven and with long matted hair; they wore no hats or shoes. In a tropical climate where the neighbouring countries are practically uninhabited and where there are no local resources from which medical or other material relief can be got, the pitiable plight of Allied prisoners can well be imagined. In Java many of the Allied prisoners are confined to camps with no adequate protection in insanitary rooms infected with malaria. Such being generally the case in these camps, there is no wonder that the Japanese Government refused permission for neutral inspection of the camps, though they permitted visits by neutral inspectors to camps in the northern area comprising Hong Kong, Formosa, Shanghai, Korea and Japan itself. This was evidently because conditions in this area were generally somewhat tolerable.

THE MARSHALL ISLANDS



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Jap Atrocities in Hong Kong, Korea and Manchukuo Recalled

This might have been due to the details of the Hong Kong atrocities revealed to the public by Mr. EDEN's statement in Parliament last year (March 1942). It was a horrible picture that was then presented, but it caused little surprise to those who had

studied the appalling record of Japanese conduct elsewhere, and knew that the official Japanese attitude not only condoned such atrocities, but actually even encouraged the Japanese soldiers to commit more of them. Korea suffered a similar fate. The story of Japanese spoliation and tyranny in Korea forms a separate subject by itself, but suffice it to say that, according to official Japanese figures, no less than 294,000 Koreans were flogged, in some cases to death, by the Japanese police between 1913 and 1918. In Manchukuo which is supposed to be an 'independent' state and a model of the 'co-prosperity' idea, the atrocities committed by the Japanese were of a most revolting character. In his book "The Secret Agent of Japan" AMLETO VESPA, an Italian eye-witness and a follower of MUSSOLINI, has exposed these atrocities. Some idea of the horrible outrages of the Japanese may be had from a prefatory passage of that book. VESPA writes:

> "This book has been written in fulfilment of my promise to make the real truth known, to stamp upon the forehead of Japanese militarism the burning brand of Cain; to expose before the conscience of the entire world the rapacious officers of the Japanese Army; to show the unfathomable abyss of infamy into which these savages in uniform are capable of descending; and, in the name of humanity, civilization and justice, to tell of the strangling degradation of which the people of Manchuria have been submitted under this crushing rule."

VESPA'S story naturally produced indignation among the Japanese. Later he was caught in the Phillipines and put in a cage.

A Nazi German observer, EDUARD STERLING was among the sworn witnesses of the Japanese horrors in Nanking.

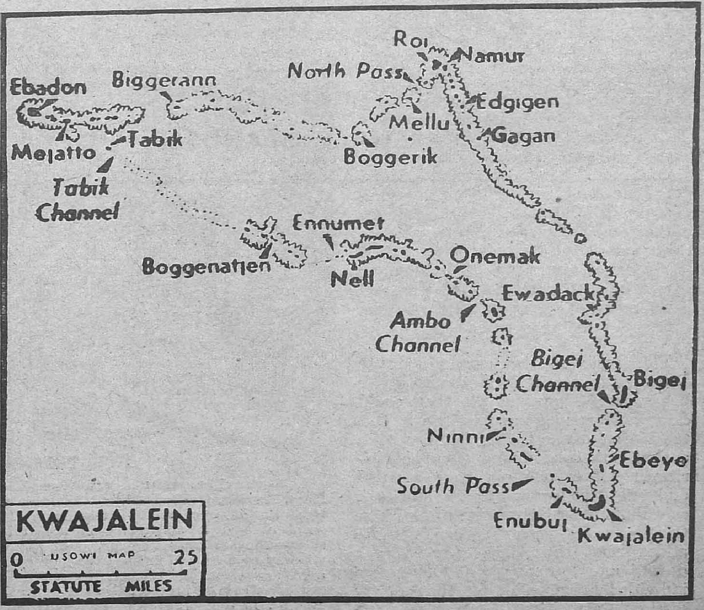
* * * *

Ill-treatment of Indian Prisoners—India Government's Statement. Mr. EDEN'S revelations of Japanese barbarity in Hong Kong last year brought forth a ridiculous reply from the Japanese. They repeated their old fable which they had already used for the Phillipines. This was now transferred *mutatis mutandis* to Hong Kong. Before the fall of that city, Indian soldiers (previously it had been Filipinos) were, it seems "exposed tightly bound to face the Japanese." Tokyo did not care to explain why this astonishing method of defence

"MAGNIFICENT GIFT" FROM CHINA TO MADRAS

His Excellency the Governor has received a donation of Rs. 20,000 from Dr. C. J. Pao, Consul-General for China, on behalf of the Sino-Indian Cultural Association to be used for the relief of distress in this Presidency. His Excellency in gratefully acknowledging this splendid gift has written as follows:—

> "I am writing to thank you for the magnificent gift of Rs. 20,000 which you have sent on behalf of the Sino-Indian Cultural Association for the relief of distressed persons in this Presidency. I should be glad if you would convey to the Association, and through them, to the people of China, the grateful appreciation of the people of the Madras Presidency and of myself for their splendid generosity. The gift is all the more appreciated coming as it does from the hard-pressed people of China who have themselves suffered so grievously from the war, and whose long and heroic struggle against aggression has evoked the admiration and sympathy of all lovers of freedom everywhere.
>
> "I propose to use this most generous gift mainly to supplement the assistance being given by my Government to those who suffered from the recent cyclone in the Chicacole area of the Vizagapatam district, and to indigent refugees from Burma who are being provided with work by my Government. I am arranging for you to receive accounts of the way in which the money is spent.
>
> "I heartily reciprocate your good wishes for the New Year. It is my fervent prayer that it may see our joint arms crowned with even greater successes, and the cause of justice and freedom triumphant throughout the world."



had been resorted to by the Allies. Now Mr. EDEN has revealed how the Japanese have been treating Indian prisoners of war intheirhands. He said in his statement made two weeks ago,

"A number of Indian soldiers captured in Burma had their hands tied behind their backs and were made to sit in groups by road, and then systematically bayoneted from behind in turn, each man receiving apparently three bayonet thrusts. By some miracle one man who collapsed, subsequently recovered and escaped to our lines. That is how we know."

It is only from some of the escaped prisoners that details of Japanese barbarities have become known to the outside world. Till now the accumulating evidence of crime and bestiality, which has reached official quarters from many sources, has not been published, becasue of the reasons given in the recent statement of the Government of India. The statement says:

"The Government of India, in common with His Majesty's Government and the Allied Governments, have refrained hitherto from giving publicity to Japanese atrocities, as it was desired as far as possible to spare the feelings of relatives of prisoners of war and internees in Japanese hands and to give the Japanese no pretext for retaliation against those so unfortunate as to be in their power. It was further hoped that representations to the Japanese Government might induce a more humane attitude towards prisoners of war and internees generally and lead to some amelioration in their condition. The Government of India are now satisfied that these representations have failed to produce the desired effect and that the absence of publicity has encouraged the Japanese to persist in their inhuman treatment of prisoners of war and internees, of whom nationals of India form a large proportion."

This restraint has encouraged the Japanese to persist in their intolerable behaviour. They thought they could do anything and get away with it. But the leaders of the United Nations have spoken out condemning these barbarities. "Everyone was very startled and rightly so by the atrocity stories", said PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT at his Press Conference last week (February 1). He added that the Allies would track down and punish all Japanese individuals responsible for the recently disclosed atrocities.

"WALTHAMSTOW," OOTACAMUND

We published in our issue of January 28 an account of "Walthamstow," Ootacamund, the holiday house for R.A.F. Officers. The above is a photograph of the House.

AT "WALTHAMSTOW".—"We hate to say good-bye."

TREK ACROSS INDIA

A 28-year old aircraftman fitter from East Ham, London, trekked right across India to meet his brother on Christmas Day. He spent five days and nights in the train, stopped in six transit camps, went part of the way by river and finished the journey in an Army wagon.

He last saw his brother, also a fitter in the R.A.F., in June 1943 just before he went overseas, and then followed him a month later. They met for an hour in Bombay, were separated and then his request to be posted to his brother's squadron was granted. He travelled across India to South-East Bengal and got there just in time to have Christmas Dinner with his brother. Now they work together on the same aircraft.

FIGHTING ON THE ARAKAN FRONT

Firing High Explosive on to Jap positions only 800 yards away, in the Maungdaw area. Pte. W. E. Sheppard, Risca, near Newport, is feeding the High Explosive to the Mortor.

When Japanese bombers, escorted by fighters, raided the Chittagong area on Boxing Day, R.A.F. fighters of Sir John Baldwin's Tactical Air Force, of the Eastern Air Command, intercepted them and destroyed six of the raiding aircraft. Photo shows *the engine of a Japanese bomber destroyed by the R.A.F., being salvaged by Technical Intelligence officers, assisted by Indians from a nearby village. Mounting guard is a soldier of the West African Forces, whose presence in India has just been disclosed.*

DAILY PRAYERS

Daily prayers are said by a devout Indian villager outside the sergeants' mess of a R.A.F. squadron on a remote Assam airfield.

Beneath the soil where aircrews pass on their way to operations against the Japanese two of his children are buried. The small collection of huts where local inhabitants used to live are now in the middle of a R.A.F. camp, but two trees remained as a shrine over the grave, and he is allowed to return undisturbed to worship there.

The trees are left untouched by the airmen.

FIRST INDIAN R.A.F. OFFICER TO WIN D.F.C. NOW SERVING with I.A.F.

F/LT. SUKTHANKAR

FIRST Indian officer in the Royal Air Force to win the Distinguished Flying Cross, F/Lt. Shailendra Eknath Sukthanker has just returned to his home in India after an absence of more than four years.

F/Lt. Sukthanker is the only Indian officer who has been awarded the Path Finder badge—a badge worn by aircrews of the aircraft which go ahead of the main bombing force in order to mark the target.

He has led Royal Air Force bomber crews in heavy raids on Germany, Czechoslovakia and Italy. Essen, Cortmund, Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne, Munich, Pilsen, Nuremburgh, Augsburg, Bremen, Turin, Genoa and Spezia are a few of the towns he has located and on which he has dropped "target markers" for the main force of bombers. The "pathfinder" technique has increased the accuracy of night bombing enormously.

Born in Bombay 27 years ago, F/Lt. Sukthanker was educated at St. Xavier's High School and later at St. Xavier's College, taking his B.Sc. degree at the age of 21.

Early in August 1939, he left India for Germany to study textile chemistry but on the outbreak of hostilities he went to England. While studying at Victoria University, Manchester, where he passed his B.Sc. (Tech.), he decided to take up flying. He joined the University Air Squadron in January 1941 and enlisted in the Royal Air Force the following August.

He completed his navigation course in Scotland, in March 1942, and served in operational units both in England and Scotland.

Before he left England, he was decorated with D.F.C. at Buckingham Palace by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, deputizing for His Majesty the King Emperor who was ill.

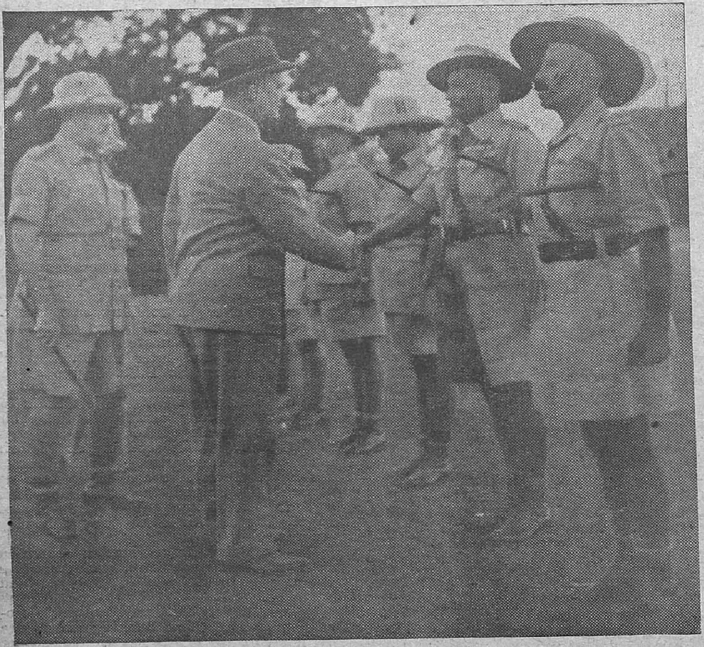
F/Lt. Sukthanker has now joined the Indian Air Force. "I like life in the Air Force and would love to make it my career," he says.

A HUNDRED

The faith of Indian soldiers in their British Officers is proverbial; it is an admitted factor in their fine battle reputation. This homely account of the relations of a young British Officer trained, as we happen to know, first with British troops and later with Punjabis, and now transferred to a Madrassi regiment whose men are strange to him in religion, customs and diet, may illustrate how affectionate confidence is so quickly acquired.

WE first met on a tiny little sandy square bounded by a few huts and overshadowed by Banyan trees, and like all such meetings, we eyed each other apprehensively; we each wondered the same about the other, well or badly trained ? — pleasant or bad tempered ? — would we get on well ? However it wasn't long before we began to appreciate each other, while the work carried on as usual, and although I'll never know exactly what they think of me (apart from my own surmises!), I like *them* very much indeed. After using Punjabi names for a year or so, it took me some time to accustom myself to their names, and even though I hear them every day, I still haven't really mastered some of the tongue twisters.

Whilst at that particular place we used to go swimming every evening in the river close by; it was yellow with silt brought down by the rains, but it didn't deter us in the slightest, and the only minor difficulty I experienced was getting them all out of the water. Splashing the C.H.M. or ducking a Naik was always on the programme, which was invariably applauded with shrieks of laughter. May be I'm not in a good position to draw comparisons, but I find the Madrassi vastly amused by simple slapdash humour, which is an invaluable quality in any troops. Whenever we tried gymnastics, one fellow landed on his head time and time again, thereby literally convulsing the rest with laughter; but that fellow kept on trying in a manner which rather impressed me, and made me hope that they were all like that in their doggedness. After some time with them I found that once fired with determination nothing will alter them. One day we scraped together a football team and played the local police who were pretty good; they licked us hollow but we arranged another match in which we drew. We then promised to wipe the floor with them at the third match, but the brass-hats moved us away before we could play, MUCH to the disappointment of our team. In only two matches our team had built up enough confidence to take on anybody.



His Excellency Lord Wavell visited the Madras Regimental Lines in Cuttack in the course of his recent tour.

AMUSING INCIDENTS

We have a radio set in our company, which, at that time, was the main source of entertainment; dozens would sit round in a half circle listening for hours on end. I thought it was ghastly, but they liked it enough to ask sometimes for "Lights Out" to be put back thirty minutes so that they could listen to a particularly good programme.

Even the stern atmosphere of "Company Office" is sometimes softened by amusing incidents; the man who has two wives both wanting his total allotment (he settled that by giving his allotment to one and his land to the other), — telegrams stating "Wife dangerous. Start immediately," —the man who wanted extra rations because he was extra big, etc. Leave used to be an awkward problem, but it's been overcome now, and many have even had Casual leave as well as their War leave.

MARCHING-SONGS

Sometimes we have sing-songs, either spontaneous or organized, the latter depending on the availability of "squeeze-boxes" and someone to play them. The start is always tame, but after a few songs and dances things begin to warm up; they sit in a horseshoe with the harmonium player at the head with a lantern. The songs are as varied in their own way as those

MADRASSIS AND ME

of any country, some slow and apparently sentimental, some snappy accompanied with hand clapping, and some marching songs. By the way, their marching songs are quite as good as the British marching songs in their steady beat, and, believe it or not you Britishers, there are definite tunes which I quickly picked up. On the march one leader sings a line and the rest repeat, so they quickly learn a new song line by line. These sing-songs are something I shall never forget, with the ringing voice of the soloist, the full chorous of the company, the whirling dancers, the roars of laughter, all within an intimate circle of light reflected by the nearby trees.

The language doesn't prove a serious problem, as they are all taught Urdu, so when they talk amongst themselves and if their mother tongue is different, they use Urdu. I wouldn't go so far as to say that they all speak good Urdu, but at any rate they can make themselves understood, and understand. The majority couldn't speak a word of Urdu before they joined the Army, but they know that it will prove invaluable after the war.

SIMPLE AMBITIONS

Talking of 'after the war,' the average Madrassi has simple and reasonable ambitions for what he will do when he is finally discharged. All he wants is a house and a stretch of land sufficient for his needs where he can live with his wife and children, and preferably near his parents to whom he can give assistance if necessary. He has learnt a lot of new things in the Army, and although he agrees that there is room for improvement in his village, he is uncertain of how this is to be done or how he can apply his newly developed abilities. He has heard of "Post-war Reconstruction" from lectures by his V.C.O.'s but he considers it something beyond his spheres of life at home.

When we went to the jungle for training, we dropped into the new mode of living right away; some, in fact, were quite at home, and soon showed the rest what woods to use and how to cut them, where we could find wild vegetables, and how to thatch a hut without it leaking. (Personally I felt like a recruit again.) Bamboo was certainly one of God's gifts to mankind, for we found that it could be used for practically everything from huts and charpoys to cooking utensils and containers for anti-mosquito cream.

VARIETY OF FOOD

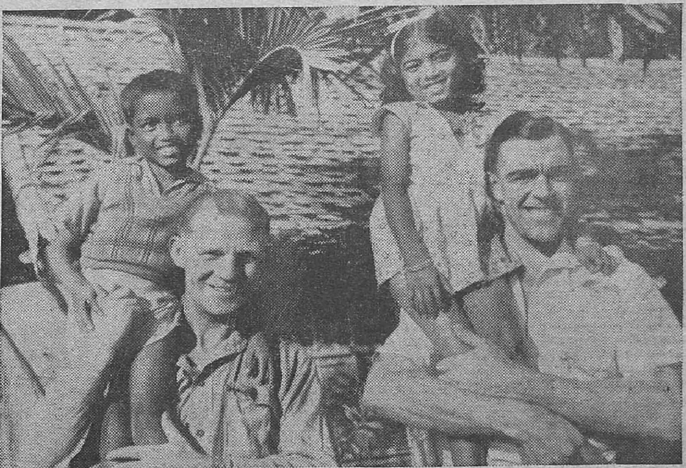
The food question is never a problem to the Madrassi in the Army because he has a far bigger ration than he ever got at home, and more varied too. When ata was introduced into their diet there was much wailing and gnashing of teeth, but after a few experiments they found that they liked it very much. In fact, on one occasion ata was accidently omitted from the rations, and they complained bitterly that although they didn't want to give up their rice by any means, they certainly wanted their ration of ata. I've tried all their foods and I like them very much, but the curry nearly burnt holes in my stomach; I'm quite satisfied that if ever necessary, I could live for a considerable time on their diet.

I think we've had most of our fun from swimming in the river nearby. About 90 per cent can swim and the other 10 per cent are learning fast. Coolie rafts coming down the river are soon swarming with all ranks leaping off and diving as it drifts by; the back chat with the coolies results in much good humoured laughter. One of our fellows provided an impromptu pantomime by poling a raft so vigorously that the pole broke and he toppled backwards into the water. Not so very funny on paper, but funny enough then to keep them laughing for a long time.

A HAPPY GANG

Generally speaking, we're a happy gang, with not more than our share of mundane troubles. The only big trouble is we have to work!

Let's take a look at some of the characters of the company. We'll start with the Subedar Sahib; he's a wily old rascal with double my years in age and service, and the only things I can teach him are the new developments. He knows more about the details of the company than I ever will and he knows I know, but I'd be darned sorry to lose him. In spite of his age he'd never be left behind anywhere, and he keeps the company just where he wants it. Then comes one of the Jemadars; he's young and almost cherubic but with a fiery temper; he's got all the 'go' a platoon commander should have, and certainly gets things done; by the way, what tales he could tell about local Government would make many a Tahsildar's skin creep. Then another Jemadar; he's quiet and looks a bit vague, but I've got a feeling there's more in him than meets the eye, — may be his



Tiny and Nora, have been "adopted" by the R.A.F. in India. They have five "guardians," and here are two of them: (left) 977975 LAC A Lambert, (age 34) of 70, Tremayne Place, St Austell, Cornwall, with Tiny and (right) 1151941 LAC K.F. Covill (age 30) of 36, Faleowfield, Old Chesterton, Cambridge, with Nora. They are acting as "shoulder carries," and the children like it immensely.

girl-friend would agree with me. The C.H.M. used to be in the I.T.F. too, and although he's nothing like the Britisher's conception of a C.S.M., he's another invaluable person in our little community; he's got a good voice too which comes in handy on a route march, — he knows all the words to "O Chinna Danna" too, and you couldn't sing *that* in every Indian 'drawing room,' either. I can't run through everybody, but I'll mention the sweeper; he wanders round all day looking perpetually worried and busy; nobody worries much about *him*, but I noticed that on the last scheme, he marched the whole way with us and swam the river as well as any. There's my orderly too; he's a queer cuss and at first I thought he just didn't know how to smile, but he creased up one day when another orderly fell down with a bucket of water. He looks as he's got all the troubles of the world on his shoulders, and although I'll admit I keep him busy, I can't quite see why he should seem so lugubrious, may be he's got a bad liver!

"TRUMPETS AND KETTLEDRUMS"

This is a collection of poems by "R.G." published in the **Madras War Review** *It is on sale at Higginbothams bookstalls and at "Victory House," Mount Road, Madras. Price Re. 1. The sale-proceeds of the book go to H.E. the Governor's Amenities for Troops Fund.*

A young Austrian who had just joined the British Army was talking to friends.

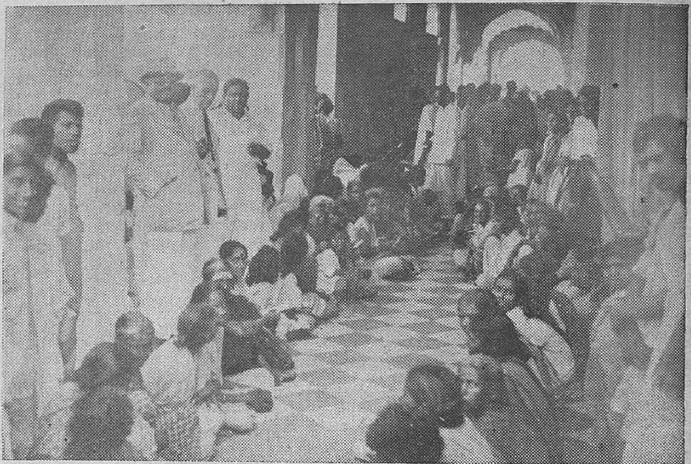
"We'll soon march into Vienna," he declared. "And then I'll mount guard in front of the station or the town hall, or best of all, in front of St. Stephen's Cathedral. And the Viennese will all come up and whisper and stare at me. I'll let them stare for some time, and when I've had enough of it, I'll call out: 'What the deuce are you staring at me for? Haven't you ever seen an English soldier before?'"

* * * *

After the bomb assault on Hitler in the Munich Brauhaus, the following notice appeared in the windows of several butchers' shops in Munich next morning, and was eyed doubtfully by the Gestapo . . .

"There will unfortunately be no lard or pork to-day as the swine was not killed yesterday."

NATIONAL WAR FRONT



"Victory House," Mount Road, was besieged on February 1, 1944 by a large number of women who wanted National War Front 'tokens' for firewood. Photo shows *the Raja Saheb of Khallikote Captain G. T. B. Harvey and Rao Sahib Albert Jesudasan explaining the situation to them.*

People waiting at the National War Front fuel depot at Royapuram Church compound to take half a gundu of firewood.

Two Belgian workmen travelling in a train near Antwerp were arguing in undertones, and one of them said aloud: "I'm absolutely fed up. I would rather work twelve hours a day for the Germans than two for my own people."

A German officer sitting near could hardly believe his ears and said, "Do you really mean that?"

"Of course," answered the Belgian, "I always mean what I say."

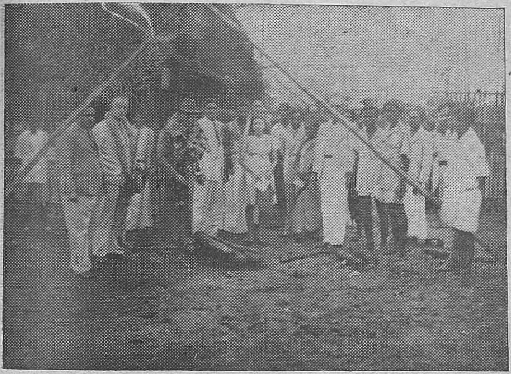
"In that case perhaps you will say it again—on the radio."

The Belgian agreed with surprising alacrity, and in time duly repeated his word before a microphone. The announcer was surprised and slightly embarrassed, and asked quickly.

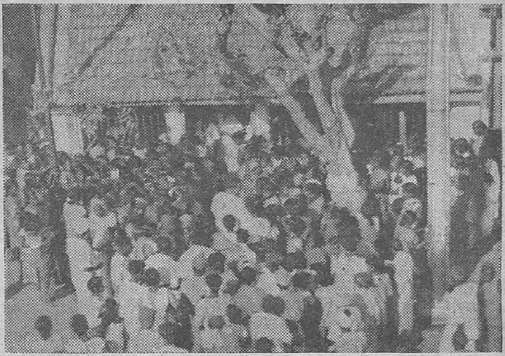
"And what is your trade?"

"Grave digger," was the laconic reply.

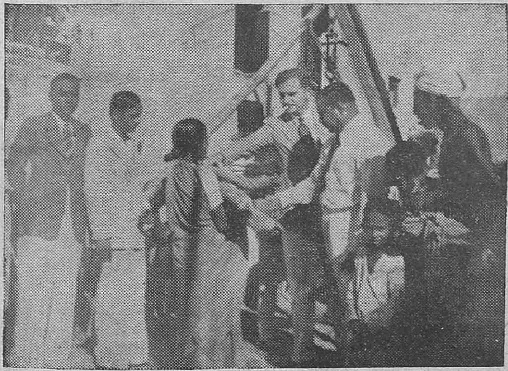
AND THE FUEL SHORTAGE



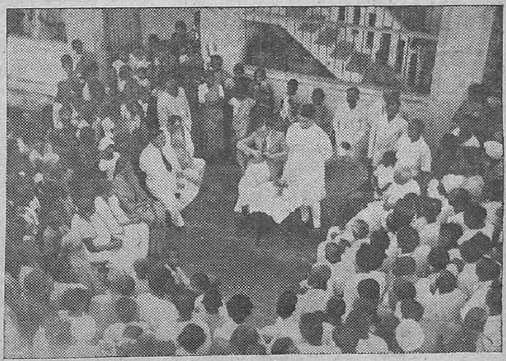
Inauguration of sales by Sir Hugh Hood, Adviser to H.E. the Governor of Madras, on the occasion of the opening of the National War Front fuel depot at Rayapuram.



Crowds at the Rayapuram residence and office of Rao Sahib Albert Jesudasan, waiting for tokens to get firewood from National War Front fuel depots at Rayapuram.

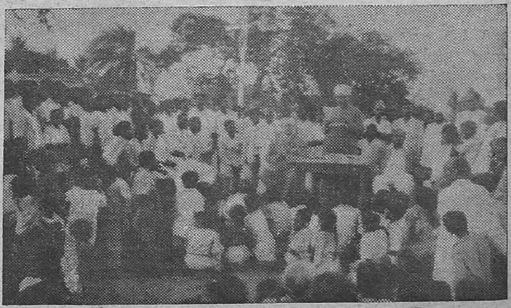


Inauguration of sales by Mr. H. K. Matthews, I.C.S., on the occasion of the opening of the Seventh National War Front fuel depot at Pudupakkam on 28th January.



The Mayor of Madras, Dr. Niyamatulla Sahib, addressed a public meeting at Pudupakkam on the fuel shortage. Mr. H. K. Matthews, I.C.S., presided. Photo shows *a view of the meeting.*

A public meeting was addressed by Captain G. T. B. Harvey at Rayapuram. Photo shows *a view of the crowd.*



The Eighth fuel depot of the National War Front was opened on 1st February at Chakklipalayam, Perambur, by Captain G.T.B. Harvey. Photo shows *Dewan Bahadur M. Balasundaram Naidu addressing the meeting.*

FROM SOUTH POLE WITH

Warrant Officer Hooper, tells his story to a Junior Commander Marie Bourke.

HE is at present second-in-command of an Airmen's Holiday Camp, a grand outfit somewhere among the Nilgiris in South India. Bronzed now by an Indian sun instead of Polar snows, the blue, wide-seeking eyes roving over green, fertile hills in place of the desolate mountains of ice, **Warrant Officer Hooper** was the youngest member of Scott's Famous Expedition and is sole survivor of the Landing and Rescue Parties. He wears the Polar Medal and bar.

Hooper was born in 1889. His amazing career began at the age of eleven when he voyaged to New Zealand and Australia in a sailing ship, taking six months. At fifteen he returned to England in the renowned *Cutty Sark*, this voyage lasting five months. Home again, young Hooper joined the Royal Navy and served the following three or four years in navigation ship.

The restless spirit saw its chance in 1910, when Scott's Expedition to the South Pole was being organized. From among 8,000 volunteers, Hooper, was the youngest selected.

When the little all-wood Terra Nova reached New Zealand, the "Boy," as Hooper became known, was told by Captain Scott that he was to accompany the Landing Party. His wildest dreams were realized !

After a passage beset with dangers —engulfing waves that swept the ponies off their legs and despite every care dragged the dogs from their chains ; and swamped the engine-room while the men, neck-deep in the water baled out—the unwavering band of scientists arrived in December 1910 at Antarctica, making their way between icebergs and floes to the great icy wastes and forbidding white mountains. Their camping grounds on the sea ice sometimes broke away, with men and beasts leaping over the widening gulfs of fathoms' deep water ; 'killer' whales pushed their snouts up over the edges of the floes to snatch the ponies. . . no story of adventure is more thrilling than that of this airman who looks as calm as if he had never left the shores of England.

A TREMENDOUS FEAT

Scott's men set up their winter quarters at Cape Evans, so named after the second-in-command of the Expedition, Lieutenant (since Admiral) Evans. Some stayed to establish the base while a selected number, led by Scott himself, set off to lay the famous One Ton Depot. In October the following year, young Hooper was chosen to accompany Evans and two other men—the Advance Party for the Pole. Taking two motor-sledges and six others with three tons of food and fodder, they started out over a wilderness of ice that was either too hummocky or too smooth and slippery for rapid progress. After days of trouble with the motor-sledges, these gave out completely and had to be abandoned and the remaining sledges and supplies had now to be manhauled over the Great Ice Barrier. This tremendous feat was accomplished, as Evans himself has said, "by three men and a boy."

While on the frozen "veldt" the men never undressed to sleep, changing only their reindeer boots for others of dogskin which reached high over the knee. Camped at Mount Hooper —thus named to honour the boy of the party—the four built a gigantic cairn, visible for miles around, while awaiting Scott's arrival with the sturdy white Siberian ponies.

But food and fodder ran short. The ponies had to be sacrificed to the men and the dogs. At the foot of the terrible Beardmore Glacier the last pony was humanely destroyed and depoted there as rations.

These exhausting trudges lasted many weary months. They took the explorers over great ice waves and yawning crevasses; often the men

SCOTT TO R.A.F. IN INDIA

Hooper, who "went into the Expedition a laughing boy and returned a staid, quiet young man." The dark marks on his face are frostbite.

were obliged to crawl perilously along ice-bridges spanning the dark depths between walls of ice. Temperatures varied from 30 to 73·3 degrees below zero. In due course Hooper returned to Cape Evans, the base, and later marched with others to One Ton Camp to lay another depot with extra rations for Scott.

When next the "Boy" went to One Ton Camp it was in March 1912. The small group took with them dogs for Scott, whom they expected to meet there after his having reached the South Pole. "Little did we realize," observed Warrant Officer Hooper, "that Captain Scott then lay in his tent, dying, only eleven miles south of One Ton Depot." Even as his men awaited him, the leader of the expedition halted but a few miles distant, his failing fingers adding weakly to that immortal diary entries of the hopes and prayers of himself and his remaining companions.

INDIAN MULES USED BY RELIEF PARTY

The months passed. The October Relief Party was despatched. Hooper—the laughing lad grown to a staid young man—was selected to be a member of the party. There were no ponies now, so they used the mules that had been given to the Expedition by the Indian Government.

Eyes that may one day contemplate the lonely sacred mound among those eternal snows will first perhaps notice a wooden cross formed by a pair of ski. The silent symbol of endeavour, if not yet laid low by blizzards, watches over the lowered tent that covers, under the ever-falling flakes, three noble men headed by Scott and which forms of itself a natural cairn. The ski belonged to Hooper, the "Boy" of Scott's South Pole Expedition.

The same relief party then searched for Captain Oates, but no trace of this gallant soldier could be found. A second cross was erected, bearing the inscription, "Hereabouts died a very gallant gentleman."

Later, the remnants of Scott's band turned their energies back to the primary object of the Expedition work in the cause of Science. So the "Boy's" part in the drama of these icelands was not yet finished and with the scientists he climbed the volcano, Mount Erebus, in search of geological specimens. They collected specimens of coal, fossilized wood, stones, birds, fishes, eggs, flowers and bacteria.

DECORATED WITH ANTARCTIC MEDAL

Hooper—the "Boy" of the dramatic band of men whose final honoured unit reached the South Pole only to find the flag of another nation planted there—returned to England in 1913. He and three other members of the Landing Party were decorated at Buckingham Palace with the Antarctic Medal.

On the outbreak of war next year he joined the Army, serving in France, Salonika and in Egyptian campaigns. Very soon, however, he became sole survivor even of this little group; his three companions lost their lives in the North Sea during an encounter by their ship with the enemy.

In 1940, Hooper joined the Royal Air Force, and after nine months became Warrant Officer. He has since selected to remain in the ranks. Detailed for India, he has seen much of this lovely country.

Of all holders of the Antarctic Medal, those who are able meet once yearly, on the Friday nearest the seventeenth of January—the day Scott reached the South Pole—at the Cafe Royal

WARRANT OFFICER

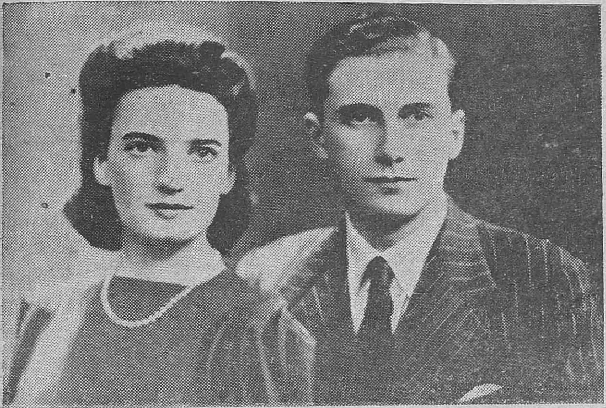
Members of Scott's Landing Party at the Base, Cape Evans. Captain Scott stands centrally, holding ski-stick. The second in command of the expedition, Lieutenant (since Admiral) Teddy Evans is on the leader's left, standing with hands folded. The " Boy " of the party is third from right of picture. In the background is the hut they built at the Base, their winter quarters.

The " Boy," ready for the Advance trek over the ice lands. Each man of the expedition covered many hundreds of miles on foot.

Advance Guard of the Southern Party standing by one of their motor sledges—since described as the forerunner of the tank. The Advance Party took with them three tons of food and other supplies, choosing the camp sites of the explorers and laying food depots. Lieutenant Evans, second in command of the expedition, is seen next to Hooper who is at the extreme right of photo —the " mere boy who stood over six feet with not an ounce of spare flesh on him."

Camped at Mount Hooper, named after the " Boy " of the party. Hooper, arms folded and a companion huddled round the Primus stove to catch some of its warmth while cooking their pemmican—extract of beef—with 60 per cent of pure fat. Food was their one comfort and of this, when marooned by blizzards, the men often ran short. Seal's liver was a rare delicacy; pony flesh came to be greatly appreciated.

HOOPER STORY



Daughters of Warrant Officer Hooper. His son-in-law is a Wing-Commander in the Royal Air Force.

in Regent Street. The world's most exclusive club comprises thirty-four members representing eighteen Polar expeditions, the earliest dating back to 1887.

Warrant Officer Hooper, however, is the only survivor of both Scott's Landing Party who left England in the Terra Nova in 1910 and the Relief Expedition that found and helped to bury the body of the famous explorer in November, 1912. Hooper wears a white ribbon to which is attached a tiny silver rose. . . the Antarctic Medal and Bar.

Thus this airman now in South India served in the four services: the Merchant Service, the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force.

"And why now the R.A.F.?" the bronzed, young-faced six-footer of fifty-four years was asked.

Before replying, his strong blue eyes that had been looking beyond the cultivated Nilgiris to frozen plains and plateaus of ice, to grim white peaks and yawning chasms, swept quietly back round the site of the Holiday Camp.

"That," said he, "is quite a different story."

THEY ALSO SERVE

(*By* R.G.)

These too we celebrate
Whose task not conspicuous but daily
Done in its appointed place
Underties the great
Fabric of defence with steely
Or elastic stress.

Not theirs the headlines
Nor the banners
And the thunder of the captains:
But if the front's red lines
Move forward and the gunners
Chalk up new victims

Not without this aid
Of observer and clerk
And hospital orderly
And the W.A.C.I. brigade
Working through the dark
And the long day

Is it achieved.
They also serve who only
Stand by, trained for the possible
Day of trouble, and have lived
Taut, disciplined inly
And outwardly, the invisible

Terror by night
Or the day of explosive storm
Calmly expecting.
Though some sit
Filing a paper or filling up a form
And war is not exacting

Blood or the intense
Strain of courage and body,
They too have forsworn
Ease, and with patience
Given themselves for freedom, ready
To devote themselves and burn

To the foot with constancy
And faith. Wardens all
And auxiliaries,
Whether in your own city,
Or jerked from home to a call,
Or to the eternities

Despatched by ill fortune,—
We the protected ones
Salute you. In this hour
You have girt on
Duty's harness, that shines
Brighter than glory and power.

PRISONERS IN JAPANESE HANDS: SHOCKING TREATMENT

By ADMIRAL H. E. YARNELL

THE announcement by American and British authorities of accounts reporting Japanese treatment of prisoners has sent a deep surge of horror, shock and anger throughout the civilized world. We have known that we fight a relentless, savage foe who made treachery and deceit an integral part of his method of warfare. We have had ample demonstration, in Japan's warfare against China, that calculated, ruthless brutality is part of his armament. But, until now, we have been reluctant to see clearly and to accept fully the whole scope of the character of Japanese aggression.

I think the reason for this strange forbearance has been, not charity, disbelief or lack of evidence, but a failure to recognize and admit the difference of ideas about human beings held by free men and those held by nations in which the individual is the slave of the State.

Because our whole experience has attempted to advance the dignity of men and the decency of life for everyone, we have seen an element of sovereignty in every individual and paid respect to it. We have viewed war as an evil, have reluctantly subjected ourselves to its distortions when necessary, and have fought because peace, decency and individual freedom were threatened.

AXIS SYSTEMS

It is difficult to accept the fact that the experience of other peoples has not produced the same loyalties. It is hard to recall that those political systems which subjugate the life of the individual to the life of the State can be ignorant, even contemptuous of the values we most cherish. Because we believe in human beings, we find it difficult to accept the idea of human beings who don't. But in Japan and Germany we have political systems whose whole pattern of loyalties contradict ours. These systems have taken human beings, potentially like ourselves, and given them inhuman loyalties, condoning inhuman acts and even demanding them. Kindness, humility, the sacredness of the individual have been replaced by false hardness, arrogance, discipline.

Japan and Germany outwardly present greatly differing civilizations. But the pattern of their authoritarian warfare has been horribly identical—the Japanese treatment of the Chinese, Filipino, Indonesian, Britisher and American has been the image of the German treatment of the Russian, Greek, Czech and Pole. It has not been the treatment of a nation by a nation, or a race by a race. Their inhuman cruelty has been, consistently, the weapon of States placing themselves above the individual in a war against all human allegiances which are higher than, and therefore the enemies of, the State. These States have been most viciously barbaric in their suppression of internal enemies, remember, and have as cruelly shed the blood of their own people who opposed them.

We must remember that terror and inhumanity are weapons deliberately chosen, and calculatingly used, by rulers in State despotisms. Their people are encouraged in the practice of inhumanity as part of the technique of their enslavement to the State. The humanity we have practised in the treatment of Japanese prisoners surprises these prisoners as much as we are surprised on encountering the evidence of Japanese atrocities. We must continue to surprise them, to meet outrage with decency, and to uphold our obligations as a civilized power. They have been led to expect barbarism and torture. We have given them food and medical care, and must continue to do so. The practice of humanity is one of our weapons against the enemy's artificial savagery.

We must show them that, despite the long period of forbearance dramatically set forth in the publication by the State department of the history of its fruitless protests against Japan's cynical breaches of honour and decency we are strengthened in resolve and unity by the onslaught of terror. We must be strengthened by our own anger and by the public opinion of the civilized world. In neutral countries the horror increases. Enemy leaders must be made conscious of their exclusion and condemnation. Americans of Japanese descent on the home front have hastened to condemn the deeds of the Japanese militarists by increased participation in the war effort and mass contributions of blood to the Red Cross.

FINAL PROTEST

Our final protest against Japanese and German inhumanity will take the form of action—of hardened, increased resolve to pursue the war until the enemy's unconditional surrender.

The peoples of Asia already know the quality of Japan's domination and will be strengthened in their resistance by the knowledge that the western democracies know it, too, in all its ugliness. Japan will fight more desperately than ever, knowing that she cannot mislead us with pretence or promise, and that she is an outcast among civilized nations as long as her present system survives. We must increase our efforts to make sure that, throughout the world, mankind will be victorious over systems fostering and cherishing atrocity.

TURNING OF TIDE IN JAPANESE WAR

By SIR KEITH MURDOCH

THE last few months have brought not only a turning of the tide in the Japanese war but a wonderful development of local superiority of every sort. We have not much more than dented the Japanese perimeter in three or four of the more distant places. A 350-mile advance in the New Guinea area is our longest span and this cannot be expected to impress a regimental people of high morale some 3,000 miles away.

In some ways they have been affairs of outposts. But the Japanese have done their utmost to defend them. They have lost at least a quarter of their cruiser and destroyer strength, three battleships and two and a million tons of shipping and a large part of their air force. They have shown poor strategy in holding hopeless positions for slaughter, exposing convoys and repeatedly sending inadequate task forces. And now our ascendency is high. We have mastery wherever we can establish fighter cover for further advance.

ENEMY'S SPIRIT

The Japanese are not fighting badly. It is utterly wrong to base plans upon their diminishing morale. My personal advices are that the enemy is showing plenty of spirit and courage. He is a nasty, dirty and ruthless fighter, but he is poorly fed, ill-trained for emergency and as a modern resourceful user of precision machines, he is not in it with our men. Counting all in uniform there must be 2,000,000 fighting men rallied now on the eastern and southern sides of the perimeter.

* * *

OUR GAINS

Our gains are, first, confidence. We know now how unnecessary were the Malayan days. Next we have made Japan stretched for shipping. She is using all manner of small ships and strings of barges, but she is short, and as our submarine bases close in and air attacks find larger targets, she will wilt. Thirdly, we have destroyed Samurai of the air force and destroyed at least a number of machines she had when the war began and know that even if she is making 1,200 planes per month, as is claimed, they cannot live in the air against American craft as now flown.

There is great admiration in British as well as Australian naval man for the American navy. Its Solomons Islands fighting has been plain, blunt interpid fighting, peculiarly brave undertakings at a time when America's naval strength was at its lowest ebb.

The Pacific presents an amazing picture of gradual assemblage of tremendous and most modern forces with preparation for their multiplication when Germany goes down. But it will be wrong indeed for any part of our people to expect victory without the utmost effort. Japan has surrounded herself with rings of terribly exacting defences. There may be one easier road—Russia. But Russia's ports and aerodromes are very vulnerable. Her single railway is within easy reach and her intentions, as we read them, have been deliberately and convincingly neutral.

R.A.F.'S DIRECT HIT ON JAP OIL TRAIN

This photo shows *a train on fire after being attacked by R.A.F. Beaufighters at KOKKOGON, about* 40 *miles along the branch line from PYINMANA, on the Rangoon-Mandalay railway. From the speed with which the train caught fire, it is considered likely that it was carrying oil.*

TEA WITH MRS. ROOSEVELT

By ERNIE PYLE

MISS MALVINA THOMPSON

MISS MALVINA THOMPSON, who is Mrs. Roosevelt's personal secretary, called up at 3-30 and said could I come over at 5 and have tea with Mrs. Roosevelt. Being a man of few words, I said "Sure".

I did add, however, that the only coat I had was an old gray one with the elbows out, and I mean out. Miss Thompson said they didn't care, if I didn't.

So I washed my face and at 4-40 put on my Army mackinaw and walked around Lafayette Park for 20 minutes to get up my courage, and then plunged into the White House.

A butler took my coat, and an usher stood waiting to escort me into the waiting room. I shook hands with him out of excitement which I suppose I shouldn't have done.

I sat in a small red velvet room on the ground floor, with a big painting of President Taft on one wall and one of Teddy Roosevelt on the other. Down the hall I could hear Mrs. Roosevelt laughing and talking with people.

I waited about a minute, and could sense by the movement of the voices that the First Lady was showing her other guests to the front door. And then she was at my door, with the usher introducing us.

WANTS TO SEE COAT

Mrs. Roosevelt is very, very happy-like. She said she wanted to see my coat because Miss Thompson had told her I would be ragged. So I showed her my elbows and said I sure wasn't fooling. I told her I thought it ridiculous to buy new clothes when I was out of uniform only a few weeks, and she said, "Perfectly ridiculous. I agree with you."

We went up to the second floor in an elevator which she operated herself, and into a pleasant west room which had bookcases and several small desk pictures of the President scattered around.

There was a low tea table loaded down with shining samovars and teapots and white linen and cups and things. Mrs. Roosevelt said why didn't I sit on the end of the davenport next to the tea table, and she sat near by and started pouring the tea.

In a minute Miss Thompson joined us, and Mrs. Roosevelt very flatteringly quoted Miss Thompson as having said this was one tea she wanted to come to. I had supposed there was always a crowd at 5 o'clock tea at the White House, but there were only the three of us.

At first I was a little weakish, and sweaty around the upper lip, and I kept wiping my face with a handkerchief. But Mrs. Roosevelt kept talking and I didn't need to think much until after I had calmed down a little.

PACIFIC BOYS "NEGLECTED"

One of the first things she said was, "I wish you would do for the boys in the South Pacific what you've done for those in Africa." I told her we had considered that as the next trip, but had finally come to the conclusion I had better stick to Europe awhile.

She said well, may be, that was right, but she'd learned from her trip that the boys in the Pacific felt neglected. You have such a sense of Mrs. Roosevelt's sincerity and genuine interest in people that I had to hold on to myself to keep from saying, "Okay, I've changed my plans. I am going to the Pacific."

Mrs. Roosevelt spoke frequently of the President, either as Franklin, Mr. Roosevelt, or the President. I was amazed at the candid way in which she related what she had said to him about something, or what he had said to her.

Also she spoke of letters she'd had from two of her sons overseas, telling some very frank things they'd said. I felt gradually comfortable, as though I were with somebody without "side," and who paid me the compliment of trusting me.

A good part of her conversation was devoted to her feelings about preparing for the post-war period; how important it was that we have jobs all ready for the soldiers when they come back; how we must make factories more modern and homes more livable.

But the conversation wasn't all on such matters. She spoke of Quent Reynolds and his broadcasts, and of John Steinbeck, whom she has never met but admires.

SHE DISCUSSES WRITING

In turn I told her a couple of little war stories. Miss Thompson and I both smoked one cigarette after another. Mrs. Roosevelt didn't smoke, but seemed to keep herself busy at the tea table. After it was over I had the impression she had been pouring tea the whole hour, yet actually we only had one cup around.

Finally we got off onto column writing, and how long it takes each of us. Ordinarily Mrs. Roosevelt dictates hers at the end of the day, in about half an hour. I told her it took me half a day to write a column, and she said, "Yes, but you write a much better column than I do!" Since it is bad taste to dispute the opinion of the First Lady, I just spluttered into my tea.

I'd been worried about how I was to know when to leave. A couple of times I uncrossed my legs in small tentative rising gestures, but neither time did Mrs. Roosevelt or Miss Thompson respond to the cue, so I figured it was still all right.

Mrs. Roosevelt, even in private, talks with a sort of professional joviality on her face. But when you say something, she turns toward you and peers solemnly and intently at you, as though she were a little hard of hearing, though I don't think she is.

She dominated the conversation and that was the way I preferred it. I was glad Miss Thompson came, for although Mrs. Roosevelt was perfectly grand and easy, I was a little beside myself, and Miss Thompson seemed very natural to have around.

"ALL GOOD"

Finally I realized it was 10 minutes till 6, so I got up and said I must let them get to their other appointments. So they got up, and Miss Thompson said goodbye, and Mrs. Roosevelt took me back down in the elevator.

She said this was the same elevator the Teddy Roosevelt kids used to ride their ponies up and down in, and that it had never been redecorated and you could still see the hoof scars on it, and indeed it was very old and scuffed up.

We shook hands in the lobby, and I left with the feeling that I had been talking to a woman who is unique, who is remarkable, and who is all good. As a mutual friend said, you have a hard time to keep from loving her.

The butler held my old Army mackinaw, opened the door, and said a friendly goodbye. At the front gate one of the policemen asked how soon I was going back overseas. After that I walked off across Lafayette Park alone, in the chill dusk air, feeling light as a feather.

UNDER THE WELL-LADEN BANANA TREE!

A new rhyme may have to be written about the blacksmith's shop at a big repair depot of the R.A.F. in India, for it stands not "under the spreading chestnut tree", but under a well-laden banana tree from which the "smithies" pluck fruit as they work.

It is one of the many novelties that face the men who have set up this unit in a remote forward area. Flowering tobacco plants help to camouflage some of the workshops. Everything is in the open air—copper-smiths, fabric workers, carpenters and other tradesmen—and its location will enable damaged aircraft to be rapidly repaired, for its equipment includes cranes and "Queen Marys" on which aircraft can be carried.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

2ND FEB.—Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary told the House of Commons that Britain's policy towards war criminals applied just as much to Japan as to other enemies and she was in close touch with the United States Government on this question.

Last night Allied bombers attacked objectives in Berlin.

His Majesty the King heard from Air Vice-Marshal Sir Robert Saundby, Deputy Chief of the Bomber Command, what the Royal Air Force thought about the raids on Berlin. The King received in audience Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Allied expeditionary forces and Lieutenant-General Carl Spaaz, United States Strategic Bomber Chief.

General Montgomery made a statement on war.

The Admiralty announced that 10,056,000 gross tons of Axis shipping have been sunk or damaged by surface ships, etc., during the 52 months of war up to December 31, 1943.

3RD FEB.—Mr. Eden told the Commons that the long-promised debate on war situation would take place as soon as Mr. Churchill thought it "a good moment internationally."

One thousand one hundred United States Aircraft attacked targets in Wilhelmshaven.

4TH FEB.—Military targets in western Germany were hit by Allied aircraft. American bombers bombed Frankfurt in south-west Germany.

There was slight German air activity over parts of south-east England including the London area last night. A small number of German aircraft were over East Anglia, south-east England and London area. Bombs were dropped.

5TH FEB.—A munition dump blew up in a railway yard in the north of England.

6TH FEB.—British bombers attacked Berlin and places in West Germany.

Early this morning there was a little enemy activity mainly over parts of East Anglia and south-east England including the London area.

7TH FEB.—It is said that German capital has been moved from Berlin as a result of the aerial bombardment.

8TH FEB.—Allied planes attacked targets in Frankfurt.

* * *

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

3RD FEB.—Rear Admiral Emory S. Land, Chairman of the Maritime Commission reported that production in merchant shipyards in January dropped to 124 vessels compared with 208 in December.

4TH FEB.—The House of Representatives turned down legislation providing for a uniform federal ballot for servicemen and women.

American warships sank 3 German blockade runners in the South Atlantic within 48 hours, says a Washington Naval Communiqué.

5TH FEB.—President Roosevelt revealed at a press conference that he had undergone a minor operation at a naval hospital on Wednesday.

6TH FEB.—Lieutenant Franklin D. Roosevelt Junior, who is back in United States, says it is his personal opinion that the European war will be over by October.

7TH FEB.—Because of labour troubles President Roosevelt has ordered the Secretary of War to take over and operate seven plants of Fall River Masschusetts Corporations.

8TH FEB.—The United States Vice-President M. H. Wallace said that he expected that President Roosevelt would run for a fourth term if pressed.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

2ND FEB.—To-day's South-East Asia Command Communiqué states that Allied forces continued to advance southwards in the Kaladan area.

3RD FEB.—To-day's South-East Asia Command Communiqué states that United States trained Chinese forces have captured Taipha Ga, in Hukawng valley.

4TH FEB.—The Standing Committee of the Civil Defence met to-day at New Delhi. Sir Firoz Khan Noon presided.

In the early hours of February 4, an enemy aircraft approached the coast of Orissa and dropped several bombs. No damage was caused and there were no casualties.

On the night of February 4, an enemy aircraft dropped a few bombs in the Vizagapatam area. There were no casualties and no damage to property.

5TH FEB.—His Excellency the Viceroy is on a visit to Bikaner from 3rd February.

To-day's South-East Asia Command Communiqué gives a statement of operations in Burma on 3rd and 4th February.

7TH FEB.—Lieutenant-General Wilfred Lindsell, Principal Administrative Officer, India Command, at a press conference, made a survey of India's part in the war in future.

To-day's South-East Asia Command Communiqué gives details of Allied activities on the Burma front on 4th, 5th and 6th February.

On 7th night an enemy aircraft approached the coast of Ceylon. One bomb was dropped, but there were no casualties and damage was negligible.

8TH FEB.—To-day's South-East Asia Command Communiqué says that Allied bombers attacked Heho and Aungban airfields on 5th and 6th.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

2ND FEB.—Russian forces have crossed the Goryn river in Poland. Heavy fighting is going on south-east and north-west of Rovno. The Red Army has reached the Narva river which means that Russians are at least 6 miles inside Estonia.

3RD FEB.—The Red Army has broken through the German defences in the Dnieper bend and two Russian armies have encircled about 10 German divisions. The Soviet troops have captured Smyela. Germans have evacuated Rovno and Luck in Poland. The Red Army has captured six towns in Estonia.

President Ryti of Finland at the opening of Finnish Parliament said yesterday, "At the present moment our position is serious.".

4TH FEB.—The Gulf of Finland up to the mouth of the river Narva has been completely cleared of the Germans as also has the Novgorod-Leningrad railway. The Soviet drive inside Estonia continues.

5TH FEB.—Forces of the First Ukranian front have captured Luck, Rovno and Zdolbunov. Several railway stations in Estonia were captured.

6TH FEB.—Another 60,000 Germans are trapped in the Dnieper bend. Red Army maintains its rapid advance in Poland and Estonia. Russians have captured Aportolovo.

The Red Air Force bombed Helsinki, the Finnish capital for 2½ hours on Sunday evening.

The Official Soviet News Agency *Tass* issued a denial of a report that negotiations are in progress for a separate peace betwen Russia and Finland.

7TH FEB.—The Russian troops have closed in on Nikopol. German positions in Dnieper are rapidly collapsing. Soviet troops have penetrated into the eastern suburbs of Narva.

FOR YOUR RADIO DIARY

FEB. 13.—BOMBAY—8-20 p.m. "What the Enemy thinks." By S. Natarajan.

" " LUCKNOW—8-30 p.m. "Literature and War! World War: First Phase (Passive Suffering)" By K. K. Mehrotra.

" 15.—CALCUTTA—9 p.m. "War and the Man in the Street: the Journalist."

" " LUCKNOW—8-30 p.m. "This Global War: Review of Events." By S. N. Gosh.

Helsinki was raided a second time by the Red Air Force.

8TH FEB.—Troops of the Fourth Ukrainian front took Nikopol.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

2ND FEB.—The Fifth Army is only 16 miles from Rome.

3RD FEB.—Fierce street fighting took place in Cassino on the Fifth Army front. In the Anzio bridgehead F. M. Kesselring has launched a counter-attack.

4TH FEB.—Rommel is reported to be in Italy. The Eighth Army troops captured Torricalla Cassino, the king pin of the Gustav line, is about to fall.

5TH FEB.—On the Fifth Army front American troops pushed farther west north of Cassino. On the Anzio front British troops repulsed German counter-attacks. Patrols were active on the Eighth Army front.

6TH FEB.—Bitter fighting is in progress in the streets of Cassino. Troops of the Eighth Army were engaged in active patrolling along the entire front.

7TH FEB.—Hard fighting continues in Cassino sector. The Eighth Army occupied the towns of Pizzoberrato and Montenerodomo.

8TH FEB.—On the main Fifth Army front American troops continued their attacks on Cassino. In the Anzio beach-head the Fifth Army consolidated their positions. On the Eighth Army front patrols were active.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

2ND FEB.—Allied aircraft attacked targets in North France.

3RD FEB.—Allied bombers attacked Pas de Calais and other military objectives in North France.

Dr. Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, said " Hitler's weak and illiterate speech heralds the military collapse of Germany.".

4TH FEB.—Military objectives in North France were bombed by Allied bombers.

6TH FEB.—German airfields in Central France and objectives in North France were heavily hit by the Allied bombers.

8TH FEB.—Allied bombers attacked military objectives in North France.

A financial agreement and mutual aid agreement between the British Government and the French Committee of National Liberation were signed to-day.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

3RD FEB.—The Spanish Government have decided to maintain a policy of strict neutrality, it was announced after a Cabinet meeting at which Gen. Franco presided.

4TH FEB.—President Roosevelt declared at his press conference that Britain and U.S. were working together to see that Spain maintains real neutrality. The situation, he added, provided a good many head-aches.

5TH FEB.—The Argentine Government has broken relations with Vichy France, Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary it is officially announced.

7TH FEB.—Vatican authorities have protested to Mussolini's Government at the incident in which armed formations of Republican police entered Vatican limits.

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THE FAR EAST

2ND FEB.—American forces have captured Roi Island of the Marshalls Group in the mid Pacific. Landings were also made on Kwazalein and Namur Islands. American bombers raided Rabaul last night. In New Guinea Australian troops continue to advance.

The Australian Commonwealth Army Minister M. F. M. Forde made a statement on the war situation.

3RD FEB.—American troops have captured Namu, Gagan, Ebzell, Bebuu and Edgigen Islands in the Marshalls Group.

The Lord Mayor of Tokyo said that Greater Tokyo was prepared for air attacks.

4TH FEB.—United States Fleet has occupied the Kwajalein lagoon in the Marshall Islands. It is the largest Jap base east of Truk. Admiral Chester Numitz has issued his first proclamation as the Military Governor of the Marshall Islands.

5TH FEB.—United States troops landed on Ebeya Island, north of Kwajalein, and occupied half of it. Two other small islands have also been occupied by the Americans. Eighty Jap planes were destroyed on the Allied raid on Wewak.

6TH FEB.—The occupation of the Kwajalein atoll is complete. Guggew, Biegj and -lber Islands have been captured and several undefended islands were occupied.

7TH FEB.—It is revealed that American naval forces bombarded south and east coast of Paramushiro Island, the most northerly of the Kurile Islands. Americans killed over 8,000 Japs in Marshall Islands.

8TH FEB.—United States bombers heavily bombed Rabaul.

R.I.N. WANTS SIGNALMEN AND TELEGRAPHISTS

The opportunities offered to young men by the Royal Indian Navy's Communications Branch will be explained to audiences and prospective entrants by an officer of H.M.I. Signal School during a forthcoming tour of Southern India.

The R.I.N.'s Communications Branch is the " eyes and ears " of the Navy as it supplies the signalmen and wireless telegraphists who pass information to and from India's warships and Naval establishments by morse, semaphore, wireless and other means. It affords a magnificent opportunity of taking part in the defence of the country, and the work is interesting and the pay good, while the prospects are excellent. The technical knowledge acquired will be a valuable asset to a man when he returns to civilian life.

The tour programme of the officer, Lieut. R. H. Rutterford, R.I.N.V.R., is as follows :—

Bangalore	Feb. 8;
Coimbatore	„ 10, 11;
Mangalore	„ 13, 14;
Cannanore	„ 15, 16;
Tellicherry	„ 17, 18;
Calicut	„ 20, 21;
Ernakulam	„ 23, 24;
Kottayam	„ 25, 26, 27;
Quilon	„ 28, 29;
Tinnevelly	March 2, 3;
Madura	„ 5;
Tanjore	„ 7, 8, 9;
Madras	for some days after March 10.

His headquarters will in each case be the recruiting office, except at Tellicherry, where he will work at the travellers' bungalow, and at Tanjore, where he will make the railway retiring rooms his headquarters.

Those wishing to join the Communications Branch must have a good knowledge of English and be educated up to Matriculation standard, and be between 17½ and 24 years of age.

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